

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-site redundant telephony call processing system comprising:
 - (a) an active telephony call processing host located in a first geographic region for controlling calls between telephony subscribers;
 - (b) a standby telephony call processing host located in a second geographic region remote from the first geographic region for taking over call control functions handled by the active telephony call processing host in response to failure of the active telephony call processing host, the active and standby call processing hosts forming a single logical telephony call processing node;
 - (c) a first local area network (LAN) including a first LAN segment and a second LAN segment being geographically distributed between the first and second geographic regions for carrying signaling messages to and from the active and standby telephony call processing hosts, wherein the first LAN is bridged over a wide area network (WAN) by interconnecting the first LAN segment located in the first geographic region with the second LAN segment located in the second geographic region; and
 - (d) a second LAN including a first LAN segment located in the first geographic region and a second LAN segment located in the second geographic region, wherein the second LAN is a redundant LAN with respect to the

first LAN, and wherein each of the first LAN and the second LAN respectively includes a single IP subnet, and wherein the active telephony call processing host is connected to both the first segment of the first LAN in the first geographic region and the first segment of the second LAN in the first geographic region and the standby telephony call processing host is connected to both the second segment of the first LAN in the second geographic region and the second segment of the second LAN in the second geographic region.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the telephony call processing hosts comprise active and standby packet telephony call processing hosts.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the packet telephony call processing hosts comprise active and standby media gateway controllers.
4. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the packet telephony call processing hosts comprise active and standby SIP proxy servers.
5. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the packet telephony call processing hosts comprise active and standby H.323 gatekeepers.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the telephony call processing hosts comprise active and standby telephony feature servers.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the telephony call processing hosts comprise active and standby telephony application servers.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the WAN includes a bridge for bridging the first and second segments of the first LAN.
12. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the bridge is implemented using routers and WAN switches separate from the first and second LANs and from an IP network interconnecting the first and second geographic regions.
13. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the bridge is implemented using routers and WAN switches separate from the first and second LANs and included in an IP network interconnecting the first and second geographic regions.
14. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the bridge is implemented using routers and WAN switches that are part of the first and second LANs and separate from an IP network interconnecting the first and second geographic regions.
15. (Currently Amended) A redundant telephony call processing system comprising:
 - (a) N dual host telephony call processing nodes, N being an integer, each dual host telephony call processing node including first and second telephony call processing half nodes, each half node including a single host, the half-nodes being located in different geographic locations, wherein ~~at least one~~ a first local area network (LAN) including a first LAN segment and a second LAN segment is geographically distributed between the different geographic locations and a second LAN including a first LAN segment and a second LAN segment is geographically

distributed between the different geographic locations, and wherein the at least one first LAN is bridged over a wide area network (WAN) by interconnecting the first LAN segment of the first LAN located in a first geographic location with the second LAN segment of the first LAN located in a second geographic region, and wherein the second LAN is bridged over the WAN by interconnecting the first LAN segment of the second LAN located in the first geographic location with the second LAN segment of the second LAN located in the second geographic region, and wherein each of the first LAN and second LAN segments form includes a single IP subnet, and wherein the first telephony call processing half-node is connected to both the first LAN segment of the first LAN in the first geographic region and the first LAN segment of the second LAN in the first geographic region and the second telephony call processing half-node is connected to both the second LAN segment of the first LAN in the second geographic region and the second LAN segment of the second LAN in the second geographic region; and

- (b) a third telephony call processing half-node operatively associated with the plurality of first and second telephony call processing half-nodes hosts and capable of taking over the operations of any of the first and second telephony call processing half-nodes in response to failure of any of the first and second telephony call processing half nodes.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the third telephony call processing half-node is geographically separated from ~~all of~~ the first and second telephony call processing half nodes.
17. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the third telephony call processing half node is co-located with one of the first and second telephony call processing half nodes.
18. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the telephony call processing half nodes comprise media gateway controllers.
19. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the telephony call processing half nodes comprise SIP proxy servers.
20. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the telephony call processing half nodes comprise H.323 gatekeepers.
21. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the telephony call processing half nodes comprise telephony feature servers.
22. (Currently Amended) A method for routing packets between geographically separate redundant telephony call processing hosts, the method comprising:
 - (a) receiving a packet addressed to one of a plurality of geographically separate redundant telephony call processing hosts, wherein the plurality of geographically separate redundant telephony call processing hosts includes a first telephony call processing host and a second telephony call processing host;
 - (b) extracting a destination network address from the packet;

- (c) applying a LAN/side subnet mask to the destination network address;
- (d) comparing the masked address from step (c) to a plurality of different routing table entries to identify either a first geographically distributed LAN including a first LAN side located in a first geographic region and a second LAN side located in a second geographic region bridged over a wide area network (WAN) or a second geographically distributed LAN including a first LAN side located in the first geographic region and a second LAN side located in the second geographic region bridged over the WAN and either the first LAN side or the second LAN side of the identified first or second geographically distributed LAN to which the packet should be routed, wherein each of the first geographically distributed LAN and second geographically distributed LAN includes sides from a single IP subnet, and wherein the first telephony call processing host is connected to both the first LAN side of the first geographically distributed LAN in the first geographic region and the first LAN side of the second geographically distributed LAN in the first geographic region and the second telephony call processing host is connected to both the second LAN side of the first geographically distributed LAN in the second geographic region and the second LAN side of the second geographically distributed LAN in the second geographic region; and
- (e) routing the packet to the LAN/side combination identified in step (d).

23. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating network addresses and subnet masks to a pair of geographically separate telephony call processing hosts, the method comprising:

- (a) selecting first and second base network addresses for first and second geographically separate sides of a first LAN, bridged over a wide area network (WAN) by interconnecting the first geographically separate side of the first LAN located in a first geographic region and the second geographically separate side of the first LAN located in a second geographic region, for communicating messages between a pair of redundant geographically separate telephony call processing hosts, wherein the first and second geographically separate sides of the first LAN form a single IP subnet, wherein the pair of redundant geographically separate telephony call processing hosts includes a first telephony call processing host and a second telephony call processing host;
- (b) selecting second and third base network addresses for first and second geographically separate sides of a second LAN bridged over the WAN by interconnecting the first geographically separate side of the second LAN located in the first geographic region and the second geographically separate side of the second LAN located in the second geographic region for communicating messages between ~~[[a]]~~ the pair of redundant geographically separate telephony call processing hosts, wherein each of the first LAN and ~~second geographically separate sides of the second LAN~~

includes form a single IP subnet, and wherein the second LAN is a redundant LAN with respect to the first LAN, and wherein the first telephony call processing host is connected to both a first segment of the first LAN in the first geographically separate side and a first segment of the second LAN in the first geographically separate side and the second telephony call processing host is connected to both a second segment of the first LAN in the second geographically separate side and a second segment of the second LAN in the second geographically separate side;

- (c) converting the base addresses into binary format; and
- (d) selecting a LAN/side subnet mask to be applied to packets routed between the first and second LANs based on the least significant 1 bit in the base addresses.